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FOREIGN AND INSULAR.

AFRICA.

Confirming report of plague in Cape Colony.

NOVEMBER 28, 1900.

SIR: I have the honor to confirm my cable of the 16th instant, as per copy inclosed, intimating that plague had been officially declared to exist in interior of colony, and further to report that the outbreak of same has occurred in the district of King Williams Town about 500 miles from this port. At present the disease is not known to have infected any other parts of the colony, but I am taking the precaution of indorsing on all bills of health issued from this consulate that plague exists in the colony, and have also instructed the consular agents at Port Elizabeth and East London to do likewise.

I also inclose for your guidance copy of dispatch received from the secretary to the prime minister of the colony notifying me of the outbreak.

Respectfully,

C. H. KNIGHT,
Vice and Deputy Consul-General.

Hon. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE.

[Inclosure.]

Supposed outbreak of plague at King Williams Town.

CAPE TOWN, November 14, 1900.

SIR: In accordance with the provisions of the Venice sanitary convention, 1897, I am directed by the prime minister to inform you that an outbreak of disease, which is believed by the medical experts in all probability to be the plague, has broken out among the natives residing at Izinyoka, 8 miles from King Williams Town, in this colony.

At present the disease has been confined to 7 persons, 3 of whom have died. One is convalescent, and 3 are still ill.

All necessary steps are being taken for the complete isolation of the patients and suspects, and for preventing the spread of the outbreak.

No other portion of the colony being at present known to be infected, the district of King Williams Town only is officially notified as an infected "circumscribed territory" in the colony, within the meaning of Chapter II, Heading II, of the Venice sanitary convention.

Further information on the subject will be afforded you in due course.

Respectfully,

SYDNEY COWPER,
Secretary to Prime Minister.

C. H. KNIGHT, Esq.,

Vice-Consul and Deputy Consul-General for the United States of America, Cape Town.

NOVEMBER 16, 1900.

Hon. SECRETARY OF STATE, *Washington:*

Officially declared plague exists interior colony.

KNIGHT.

BRAZIL.

Report from Rio de Janeiro—Plague in Petropolis.

RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL, November 26, 1900.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit to you the official sanitary report for the fortnight November 1 to 15 inclusive:

There were 570 deaths from all causes, being at the rate of 38 per diem and corresponding to an annual death rate of 17.80, against 34.06 and 15.95, as compared with the foregoing period of half a month.

The number of deaths in regard to infectious and contagious diseases were as follows:

Tuberculosis, 109 against 110; smallpox, 48 against 43; malarial fever, 33 against 30; bubonic plague, 11 against 9; beriberi, 7 against 10; measles, 5 against 3; typhoid fever, 4 against 5; diphtheria, 2 against 0; dysentery 1 against 2; yellow fever, 1 against 2, and influenza, 0 against 2.

There were 522 births—that is, an average of 34.8 per diem, corresponding to an annual birth rate of 14.64 a thousand.

The thermometer varied as follows: 34.7 maximum, 18.5 minimum, 22.66 medium.

General report.

The sanitary situation of the city of Rio de Janeiro during the last few weeks may be considered as not unfavorable. As you will see by the figures which I have previously forwarded, and now forward, plague still exists, but only on a very limited scale. Smallpox shows a slight increase, undoubtedly on account of neglect of vaccination. Very few cases of yellow fever or other infectious diseases have been observed.

Plague spreading to Petropolis.

I am unfortunately obliged to report that up to the present the plague has not yet been extinguished, and observation shows that the germ continually exists in a latent form. Sporadic cases were observed nearly every day in different parts of the city. Few of these cases are fatal; nevertheless, the continued existence of the disease is a circumstance that can not fail to excite apprehension.

Fourteen days ago there appeared a fatal case of plague at Petropolis, a city situated on the mountains about three hours' run by railway from this city. That town was supposed to enjoy immunity from epidemics, especially yellow fever, and is the residence of the wealthier classes of the inhabitants of this city, and of the diplomatic corps, having been formerly the summer residence of the emperor. The patient had not been for a long time in connection with Rio de Janeiro.

The appearance of plague at Petropolis has attracted much attention, because no luggage or merchandise could be sent from this city to that town without being previously disinfected by means of formalin.

The patient was removed to the isolation hospital, where he died; his residence and the adjoining buildings were disinfected, and all persons who had been in contact with him were taken to the observation station. Nevertheless, in the last few days there have been 5 new cases, 2 of them being fatal, and in no instance have any of the patients been recently in the city of Rio de Janeiro. There is no information whatever in regard to the manner in which the plague was introduced into Petropolis and spread in that town.

The march of the plague at Rio de Janeiro has been as follows:

Date.	New cases.	Deaths at—		Cured.	Number of patients in hospital.	Date.	New cases.	Deaths at—		Cured.	Number of patients in hospital.
		Hos-pital.	Resi-dences.					Hos-pital.	Resi-dences.		
Nov. 1...	2	1	1	.....	25	Nov. 9...	1	1	.....	5	26
Nov. 2...	2	1	.....	.....	26	Nov. 10...	.....	.....	.....	.....	21
Nov. 3...	.....	1	.....	.....	25	Nov. 11...	3	.....	.....	.....	24
Nov. 4...	.....	.....	.....	.....	25	Nov. 12...	1	1	.....	.....	24
Nov. 5...	2	1	.....	.....	26	Nov. 13...	1	.....	.....	.....	25
Nov. 6...	1	.....	.....	.....	27	Nov. 14...	1	1	.....	.....	25
Nov. 7...	1	2	.....	.....	26	Nov. 15...	.....	.....	.....	.....	25
Nov. 8...	1	.....	1	.....	26						

Bills of health.

Since last report the following-named ships have been inspected and received bills of health of this office: November 7, bark *Baltimore*, American, for Baltimore. November 12, barkentine *Frances*, American, for Baltimore. November 13, steamship *Holbein*, British, for New York. November 17, bark *Rosenberg*, Norwegian, for Ship Island. November 20, steamship *Ebro*, British, for New Orleans. November 21, bark *Glycinia*, Portuguese, for New Orleans. November 22, ship *Oceana*, Portuguese, for New Orleans; steamship *Bellaggio*, German, for New York. November 24, steamship *Llansannar*, British, for Galveston.

Respectfully,

W. HAVELBURG, M. D.,

Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

CUBA.

*Reports from Cienfuegos, Casilda, and Santa Cruz del Sur.*CIENFUEGOS, CUBA, *December 24, 1900.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that during the week ended December 22, 1900, 18 deaths occurred in this city, the following table showing the causes of deaths: Mitral insufficiency, 3; enteritis, 2; dysentery, 1; remittent fever, 1; tetanus, infantile, 1; intestinal obstruction, 1; inflammation of the aorta, 1; typhoid fever, 1; pernicious fever, 1; intestinal colic, 1; tuberculosis, 1; Bright's disease, 1; gangrene, 1; gastro-enteritis, 1; emphysema, 1.

Five of these deaths occurred in the civil hospital. Death rate 23.46. The case of yellow fever reported by cable on the 23d has been removed and isolated outside of city, the premises occupied by patient having been disinfected. The patient is a Spaniard, one and one-half months on the island, and who arrived from Havana eight or ten days ago. The case is a mild one and is doing well.

Seventeen vessels have entered and been inspected and passed; 18 vessels have been issued bills of health for other ports. During the week 58 health certificates have been issued passengers, 35 pieces of baggage disinfected, 49 labeled "To be disinfected at Santiago," 62 pieces of baggage leaving Cienfuegos inspected and passed; 27 pieces of baggage inspected entering Cienfuegos; 13 pieces of baggage destined for south coast ports inspected and passed.

Ten tons of coal were removed from the disinfecting barge *Sentinel* during the week, which brought the copper sheathing 6 inches out of the water; this will prevent any damage by worms.

Casilda.—Dr. Alejandro Cantero reports 7 deaths in the city of Trinidad during the week; 1 death from diphtheria, but all precautions have been taken to prevent a spread of the disease. Inspected 7 vessels at that port during the week.

Santa Cruz del Sur.—Dr. Juan R. Xiques reports no deaths during the week at that port, no deaths having occurred in that vicinity during 1900 from any contagious diseases. Inspected 7 vessels at that port during the week.

Respectfully,

F. E. TROTTER,

Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.